

MARVEL

509

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

# Fantastic Four®



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# THE FANTASTIC FOUR

**1** A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary—and extraordinary. As of today:

**2** Reed Richards, demonstrating increasingly erratic behavior after having been scarred in battle by Victor Von Doom and banishing Doom to Hell, laid claim to Doom's European homeland of Latveria rather than risk having Doom's advanced science and weapons plundered by those who would not understand them.

**3** The United Nations, infuriated that Richards took international law into his own hands, sent in armies led by Colonel Nick Fury to undo his coup d'état—only to find that Richards' machinations extended further than simple disarmament. Reed had fooled his own teammates into believing him mad, all as part of an elaborate plan to imprison Doom forever—

**4** —a plan that failed when Doom's mind possessed Ben Grimm's body and battled the team. In order to save Johnny's life in battle, Reed had no choice but to use lethal force. When the dust cleared, Doom's consciousness was indeed destroyed...but Ben Grimm lay dead. Reed Richards had killed his best friend.



STAN LEE PRESENTS

## "HEREAFTER"



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Part  
1 of 3

SIX WEEKS AGO.

CLEAR!



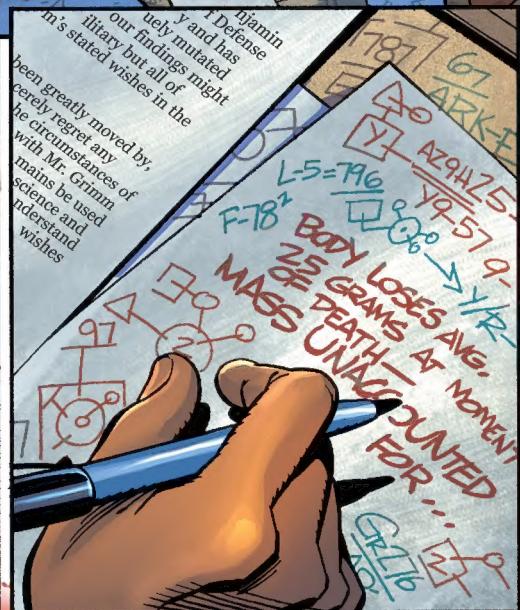
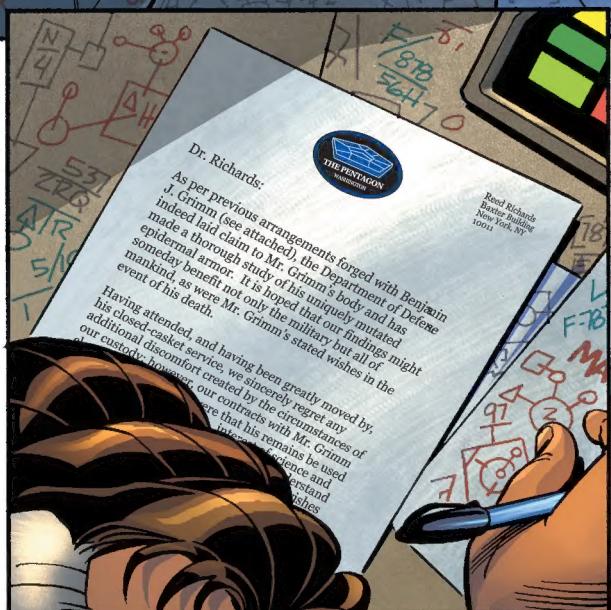
Castle Doom, Latveria.



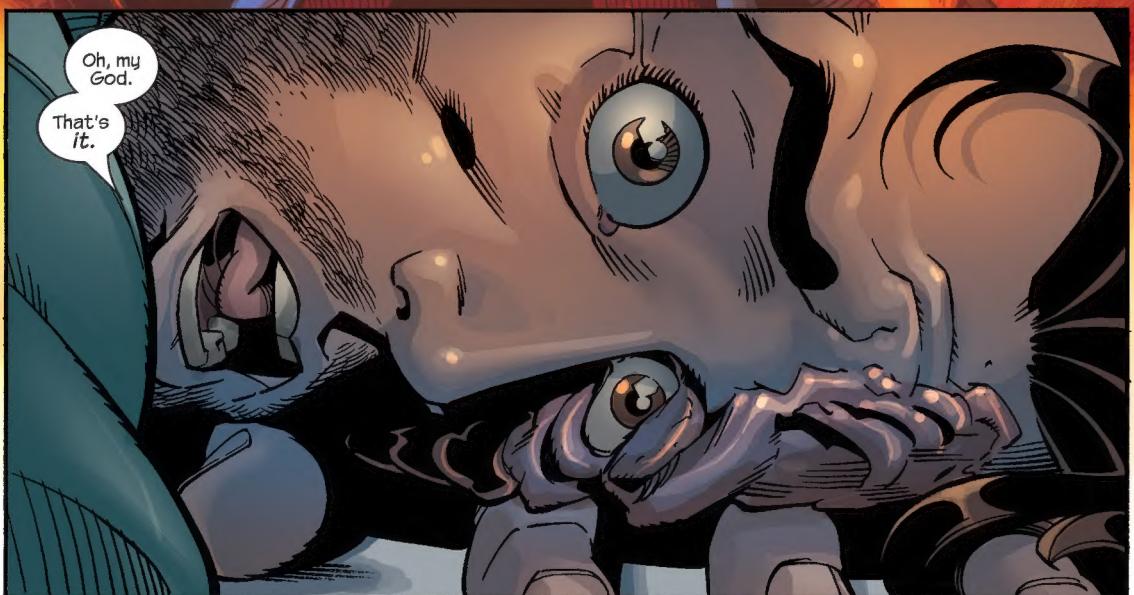
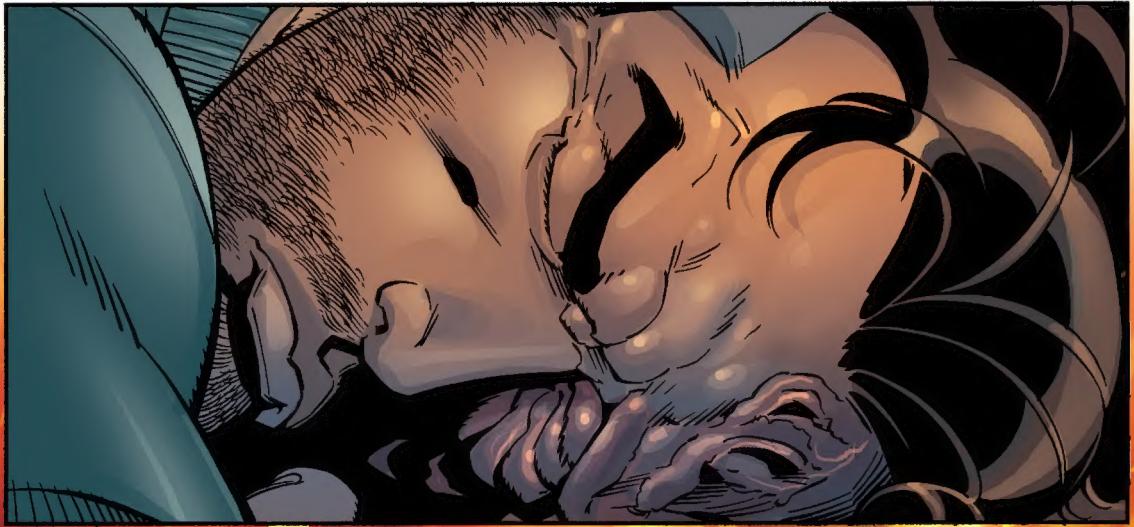


## ONE WEEK AGO.

The Baxter Building, New York.



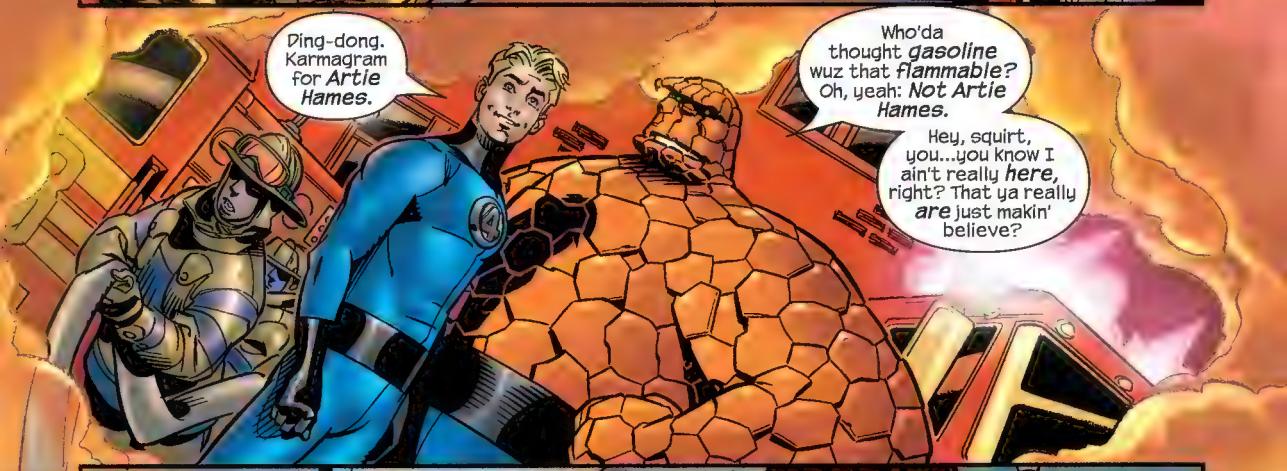


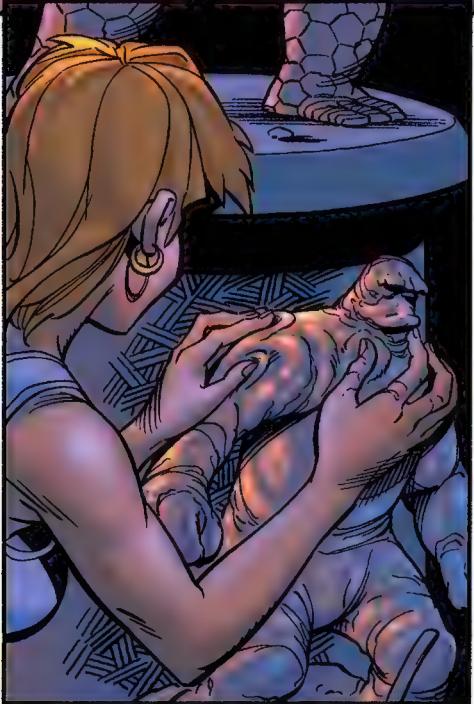


# FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT.

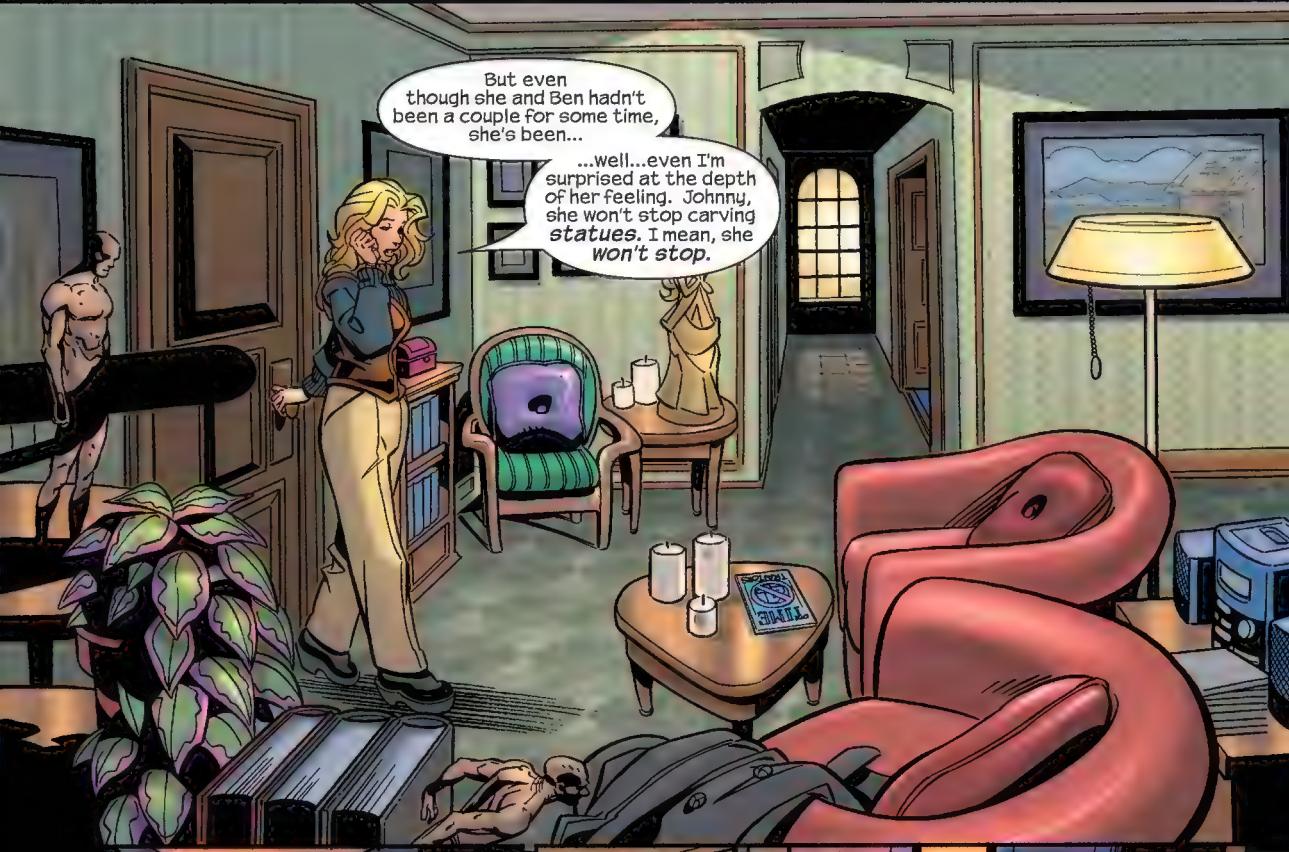






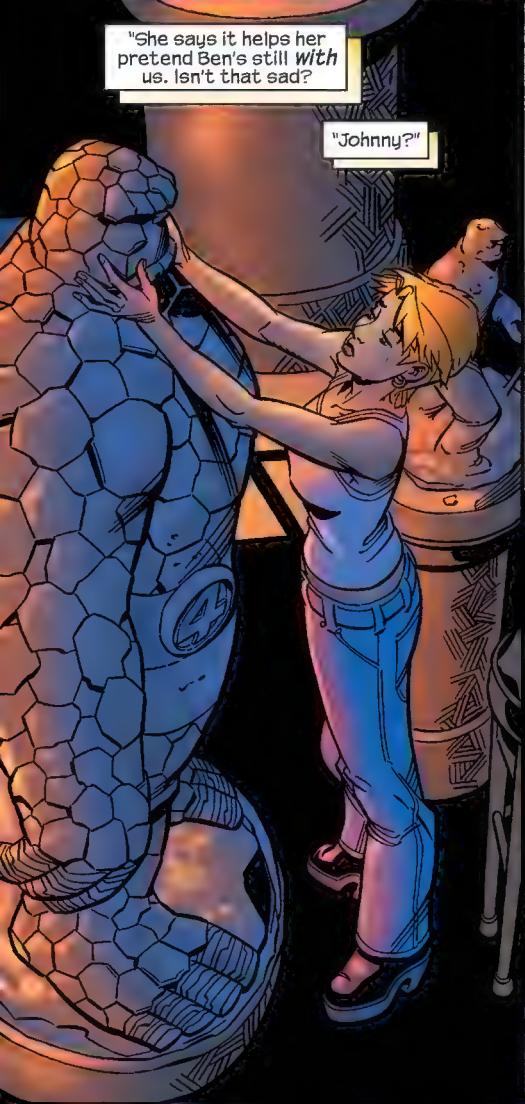






"She says it helps her pretend Ben's still *with* us. Isn't that sad?"

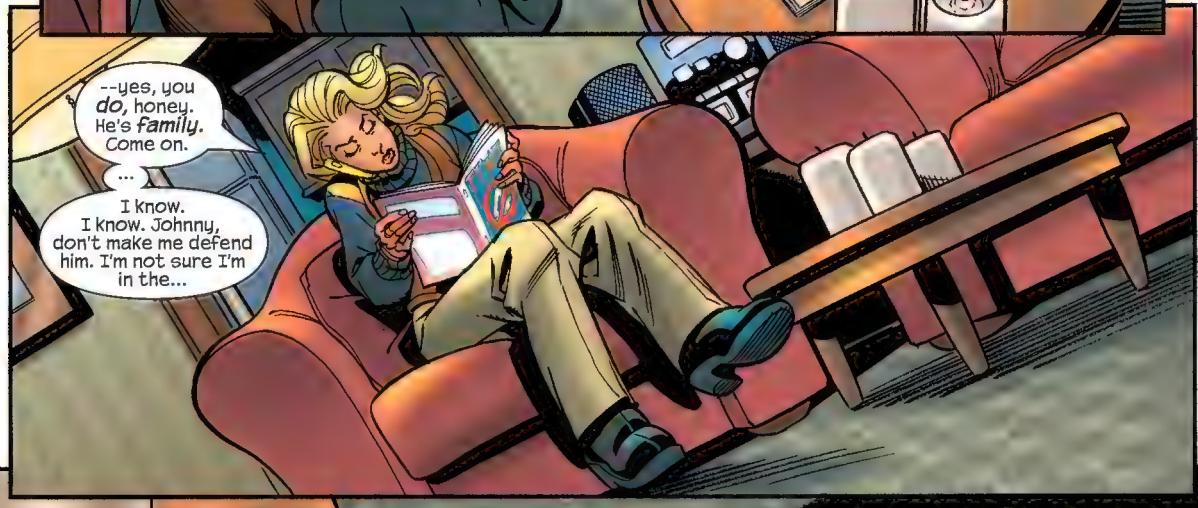
"Johnny?"



I don't think it's healthy for Franklin and Val to be steeped in grief for this long...

...but I can't leave Alicia in this state. I don't know what to do. I'm not ready to go back home.



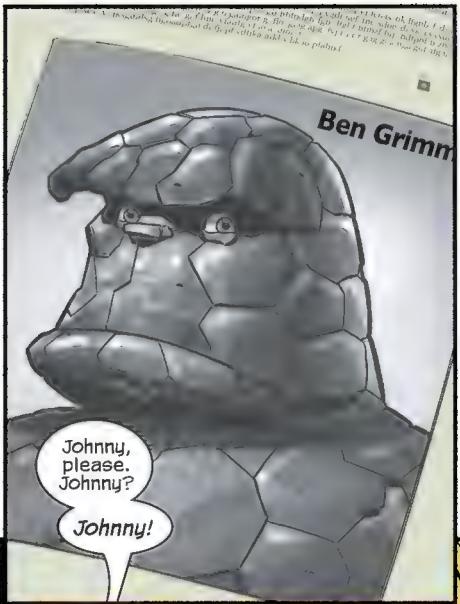


Agreed. Yes.  
Regardless of his reasons, he shouldn't have manipulated us. He should have consulted us before making choices that ruin--

--that affected our lives. But it's his loss, also. Try to understand that.

I wish you'd at least give him a call to--











There.

short and sweet: I stole him from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Once I made my breakthrough last week, the next step was to verify the viability of the mission.

Sure enough-- probably because of the way his body is constructed-- there lies within Ben's brain the faintest spark of life.

Then fan it!

I can't. Not from here. Ben's consciousness, or life essence, or whatever name you wish to put on it--it's transmigrated to another plane of existence.

He's gone to Heaven?

